

Vaccinium Ashei sp. nov.

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Description.—Frutex *V. fuscato* valde affinis, differt tamen floribus albis minoribusque, foliis serratis et baccis saepe pruinosis. Ramuli villosiusculi vel glabri, parum compressi vel teretes. Folia alterna, lato-ovata vel ovata, 3.4-5.7 cm. longa, 2-4.3 cm. lata, supra glabra aut ad medio-nervum pubescentes, subtus circa venas villosiuscula, tenuissime serrulata. Racemi ad ultimo ramo plures, multiflori, pedicellis glaberrimis. Corolla alba, oblongo-urceolata, angusta, constricto ore, 8-10 mm. longa, diametro circiter 4.5 mm., calyce 5-fido triplo longior. Bacca glabra, nigra aut glauca, diametro 11-16 mm., suaviter edulis. In paludosis Floridae et Georgiae ad Mississippi.

A slender shrub 2-6 m. high, usually several stems to the clump and the branches often in irregular whorls; bark brown and stringy. Twigs flattened or terete, at first more or less pubescent in lines but at length glabrous or glabrate. Leaves dark green, when mature, glabrous above except for a slight pubescence along the midrib, pale beneath and sometimes quite and persistently pubescent especially on the midrib, 3.4-5.7 cm. long, 2-4.3 cm. wide, broadly ovate, elliptic, or even somewhat obovate in outline, rounded at the base, or narrowed at both ends, or sometimes rounded at the apex, finely and sharply serrulate, especially above the middle, the teeth with gland-tipped, inturned points, often finely ciliate toward the base, petioles short, puberulent, 1-3 mm. long. Flowers appearing in February to April, before the leaves or when the leaves are half grown, in short 4-10 flowered glabrous clusters which are often racemose on the twigs. Corolla white or rarely striped with red, oblong-urceolate, narrow, more than twice as long as thick, 8-10 mm. long, rarely 4.5 mm. thick, much constricted at the mouth. Calyx glabrous, about a third the length of the corolla, with acute or obtuse entire appressed lobes which on the distended mature fruit become mere margins. Young fruit and calyx often slightly glaucous. Fruit subglobose, 11-16 mm., purplish black, often with a slight bloom, sweet, ripening irregularly from the end of May to the middle of July. Seeds 20-30, chestnut brown, pitted, about 1.5 by 1 mm.

The proposed species is common in western Florida and the adjacent portions of Georgia, especially near the coast, and extends west to Pearl River County, Mississippi, and as far east as Baker County, Florida. It grows in sandy or mucky soiled swamps, especially swamps of clear-water streams usually associated with water gum of small size, with slash pine, white bay, holly, titi, wax myrtle and azaleas. Near Pensacola it is being cultivated un-

der the name of "rabbit-eye huckleberry." On account of the large size of the fruit and its fine flavor it seems to be a most desirable sort for cultivation on the sandy soils of the coastal plains region. The fruit ripens somewhat irregularly, however.

This plant is most closely related to *Vaccinium fuscatum*, Ait. (Hort. Kew. I, 2:11. 1789) of the same general region, from which it may be separated when in flower by the white corolla with narrower tube much constricted at the mouth, and when in foliage by the serrulate leaves usually less pubescent, while in winter the flattened twigs nearly or quite glabrous are distinctive. The flowers of *V. fuscatum* are decidedly red or reddish; its leaves are essentially entire and as a rule much more pubescent. Its fruit is acid. In West Florida it is known as sourberry.

The type material collected by W. W. Ashe near Niceville, Okaloosa County, Fla., consisting of both flowers, March 26, 1927, and fruit, June 2, 1929, from the same plant, is in the Ashe herbarium. Co-type specimens in fruit are being deposited in the herbarium of the University of Georgia and in the National herbarium.

We are indebted to Mr. W. W. Ashe for the recognition and delineation of this species. His well preserved specimens and careful field notes are made from abundant material. Additional specimens examined—all collected by him—are as follows:

Florida—Niceville, Juniper Bayou, June 10, 1929; Lightwood-knot Ck., Okaloosa Co., June 8, 1929; Rocky Run, Walton Co., March 23, 1927 and June 7, 1929; Walton Co., March 26, 1927 and June 7, 1929; Camp Walton, Okaloosa Co., March 25, 1927 and June 8, 1929; Hollyhead, Santa Rosa Co., June 8, 1929; near Valparaiso, Okaloosa Co., 1927; Alaqua Ck., Walton Co., March 26, 1927 and June 7, 1929; near Pensacola, Escambia Co., March 27, 1927; near Taylor, Baker Co., February 19, 1929 and May 11, 1929.

Mississippi—McNeill, May 8, 1930; near Poplarville, Pearl River County, May 8, 1930.

ATHENS, GEORGIA